

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13, 18 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 7, and 13 are amended herein. Claims 2-5, 8-11, 14-17 are canceled herein. No claims have been added.

The Examiner rejected all the claims under 35 USC 103 under various combinations of Hurlburt ( USPN 6,267,198), Stracke (DE 8902158), Abbott (Abbott and Hinerman, "Suspension and Steering") Riley (USPN 4, 953, 889).

The Examiner relied upon Abbott for the teaching of a steering angle inclined inwardly and a pivot axis inclined rearward relative to the forward driving direction. Although Abbott is directed to the automotive arts and the present application is directed to the agricultural harvesting arts, the Examiner nonetheless feels that the Applicants would look to the automotive arts to design the steering system for an agricultural harvesting machine.

Abbott does not teach that "a caster angle of the left rear wheel equals a caster angle of the right rear wheel." This term is now recited in all the independent claims, claims 1, 7, and 13.

In contrast to this, Abbott teaches that the caster angle for the left steering wheel and the caster angle for the right steering wheel must be different in order to ease the vehicle steering (see Abbott, page 301, paragraph 3, and page 302.).

Support for this amendment can be found in paragraph 17 of the application as originally filed in which the left and right side are described as "mirror images" of each other. This would inherently include identical caster angles on the left and right side of the vehicle.

For at least the above reasons the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw her rejection of the claims.

Claims 2-5, 8-11, 14-17 had been canceled herein and their subject matter inserted into claims 1, 7, 13, respectively.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525. Two duplicates of this page are enclosed.

Respectfully,

  
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